

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 2,
2013, AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA
WAY, PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Bob Madden, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION of the 2013 UAV Copper Shield Recipient - Heather Carter, State Representative, LD-15 (North Phoenix, Cave Creek, Carefree & Scottsdale)

Representative Carter represents District 15 in North Phoenix and Cave Creek. She was first elected to the Legislature in 2010 and is now Chair of the House Health Committee and a member of the House Education Committee. She is the primary sponsor of HB2064, expediting licensing of military health care professionals training in trauma care at Arizona Hospitals in preparation for battlefield deployment and is a sponsor or co-sponsor of other veterans related bills in the current session. Representative Carter holds a doctorate degree in educational leadership and is a clinical associate professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. Heather's father was a disabled veteran who served in the Air Force. She has a niece serving in the Navy and a nephew serving in the Marine Corps.

PRESENTATION: "Update: Veterans Treatment Court" - Patricia George, Prosecutors Office, City of Phoenix, and Judge Mike Hintze, Commissioner, Maricopa County Superior Court

Patricia George, Prosecutor, stated that over the last 10 years, 200 veteran cases have been handled through the Phoenix court system.

Mike Hintze, Commissioner, stated that two years ago, the Maricopa County Competency Calendar was opened, followed by the Guardianship Calendar and the Mental Health Calendar. He was asked, where do the cases come from? Cases and veterans are often referred by the VA. The veterans cases are conducted in Courtroom 508 at 300 W. Washington, all day. The next scheduled Veterans Treatment Court is Friday, February 15th. The Maricopa County Probation Office employs 6 case officers, each is assigned 40 cases. Commissioner Hintze reported a program success rate of 84%, and emphasized that intervention at the earliest stage of the process is their constant goal.

PRESENTATION: "Missing in America Project (MIAP) Arizona" – Kathy Laurier, Central & Northern Coordinator, MIAP, briefed the Missing in America Project (MIAP). The purpose of the MIA Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. Kathy

reported that the next MIAP is scheduled for Noon, Wednesday, February 27 at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, with Mission Briefing at 10:30 am at the Hansen Desert Hills Mortuary, 6500 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale 85254. Twenty-seven veterans and two spouses will be honored and interred. Point of contact: Kathy Laurier, 602.909.2121, Kathleen@miaparizona.org

JANUARY 5, 2013 MINUTES: Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by Reggie Yates. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT presented by Treasurer John Burden. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report subject to audit, by Lew Bradley, and seconded by Ron Capek. Motion carried. The Report is on file with Secretary Culbertson.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Chaplain Bo Bohach reported the passing of Colonel Albert Rodriguez, AVHOF Class of 2005, and the passing of BGEN Gregg Maxon's dad.

REPORTS:

1. VA Medical Center Phoenix – Paul Coupaud, Acting Public Affairs Officer, reported groundbreaking in Gilbert on February 1st regarding the Southeast Clinic, 60,000 square feet of space. The Southeast Clinic opening is projected for April 2014.

2. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services: Dave Hampton, representing Director Joey Strickland, reported a Medicare survey of the State Veteran Home Phoenix in January with a score of 99 out of a possible 100. Camp Navajo Project groundbreaking planned for mid-year (State Veteran Cemetery and a 100-bed veteran home). Veterans Donation Funds totaling \$700,000 have been granted, point of contact is Kathleen Harding, 602.255.3373, in Director Strickland's office. An Inurnment Service for 20 veterans cremains is scheduled for March 21st in Sierra Vista.

3. UAV Board of Directors - Chairman Madden

Reminder: The Copper Sword/Copper Shield event on Wednesday, February 13th at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel on 5th Street. A play about letters written during WWII will be presented. The 2013 Copper Sword Recipient is Dr. Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University. The 2013 Copper Shield Recipient is Representative Heather Carter. Scholarships will be presented to four outstanding students who have volunteered hundreds of hours of service at VA hospitals.

4. UAV Legislative Committee – Legislative Committee Chairman Lionel Sanchez reported there is now a Veterans Caucus in the Legislature. On March 11th at 11 am, the MSVA Homeless Women's Center will open at MANA House.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. UAV Meeting on Saturday, December 7, 2013 – Chairman Madden previewed to the body that the first Saturday in December is December 7th and conflicts with the Annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremonies. He asked members to think about a UAV Meeting on Saturday, December 7th, 2013, from 9 am to 10 am which would allow us to drive to Wesley Bolin Plaza before the 10:55 am start.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The 2013 Pearl Harbor Commemoration Planning Committee will meet on February 21st. Point of contact: Judy Hatch at: judithhatch42@yahoo.com

2. A new magazine, Arizona Veterans Magazine, will be published in April. Website: www.AZVetMag.com. Point of contact: Mark Field, Navy veteran, 602.434.3454.

3. StandDown – Funds are needed and welcome. Point of contact: Art Sloane at: artgbeard@aol.com

4. Vietnam Vets of America will be traveling to Capitol Hill on April 17th. Questions are being sought. Point of contact: Gene Crego at: genecrego@gmail.com

5. Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2013: Funds are needed and welcome. Point of contact: Mel Brody, Treasurer, Memorial Day Committee, 8989 N. Gainey Center Drive, #146, Scottsdale 85258. Make checks payable to: “Memorial Day Committee of Arizona.”

50/50 Raffle Winner: Sharon Woods, \$53; UAV Treasury \$53.

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 2nd, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall on the Second Floor, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/CAROL CULBERTSON
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
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